
Communities and Forests

The newsletter of the Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forest Congress

Volume 2, Number 3

Summer 1998

Community forestry abroad

In Nepal, a woman collects leaves to feed her animals from a designated area of the forest, leaving other areas to regenerate for use another year. In southern Mexico, a skidder hauls mahogany to a cooperatively owned sawmill. In an Italian town, a hospital is being constructed with funds from the sale of local timber. In India, a Bengali villager drives goats away from a stand of regenerating sal trees. In Senegal, a women's group plants trees in an abandoned field.

Community forestry is neither new nor unique to the United States. Indeed, the Magnifica Comunita di Fiemme in Italy has been managing the same forest since before 1111 A.D.! The more we look, the more examples of community forestry we find, from the woodlots of early New England settlements to cooperative forests in Japan, locally hired forest watchers in Nepal, and religiously based systems in African villages.

While the landscapes and cultures vary greatly, these forestry scenes are all united by a philosophy that local people can manage communal forests for the common good.

continued on page 6



The November 1998 Communities Committee steering committee meeting will be held in Tucson, Arizona, in the heart of the "saguaro forest." (Ann Moote photo).

Workshop explores community-based ecosystem management

Last June, fifty-four community practitioners, academics, federal and state agency personnel, environmentalists, and industry representatives gathered in Bend, Oregon to discuss and write about community-based ecosystem management. American Forests convened the workshop in an effort to help create a framework for and better understanding of the currently scattered and underdeveloped concepts of community-based ecosystem management in the United States.

The Communities Committee provided seed money for this workshop, which was also sponsored by private companies, federal agencies, and philanthropic foundations. Lynn Jungwirth, Communities Committee Chair, who served on the project's management team, said, "I thought it was important that we be there so we could contribute what we have learned through the activities of the Communities Committee, and learn from other people what the current state of thinking was on a national level. It has become obvious that [community-based approaches] are the future of natural resource management in the United States." Several Communities Committee members participated in the workshop.

The workshop is perhaps best described as a collaborative writing experiment. The participants broke into work groups, with each group working collectively to write a paper addressing one of six themes of community-based ecosystem management.

continued on page 8

Contents

Forest products certification	2
Committee briefs	3
Member profile	4
Community conversations	5
Resources	7
Appropriations	8

A closer look at forest product certification

Over the last decade, forest product certification has been promoted as a way to halt forest degradation around the globe. Certification has become an oft-cited example of how free market environmentalism can promote sustainable forest management without government intervention.

The concept

Typically, consumers have no way of knowing where the wood products they buy originated, and thus have little opportunity to use their buying power to support sustainable forestry.

Certification lets producers attach a label to forest products that identifies them as coming from operations that meet pre-set criteria for sustainable forest management. Environmentally concerned consumers can then purchase labeled wood products with a free conscience while rewarding the progressive forestry operations that provide them with better prices and/or increased market share.

Forest Stewardship Council

Since the first program was developed in 1989, interest in certification has grown substantially. In 1993 the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) was created to coordinate the many fledgling certification efforts. The FSC worked with stakeholders worldwide to develop a set of principles and criteria for responsible forestry. Currently, the FSC endorses regional criteria that help apply the global principles in the field, certifies independent certifiers who do the actual field assessments of forestry operations, and promotes the idea of certification among consumers. Since most wood products pass through many hands before reaching the consumer, the FSC has also developed a system of certification for processors and marketers to assure that certified products are properly tracked and labeled.

Worldwide, the acreage certified by the FSC has grown to 16 million acres. In the U.S., 36 forest management certificates have been issued, covering a total of 3.6 million acres in 11 states. Certified areas range in size from 20 acres to 1.2 million acres, and are owned by a diverse group including private individuals, community associations, timber companies, state and county governments, and a Native American tribe.

Industry responses

Not all certification programs in North America operate under the FSC umbrella. The American Forest and Paper Association's Sustainable Forestry Initiative requires its member companies (who control 90% of the industrially owned forest in the U.S.) to adhere to the association's Sustainable Forestry Principles. The Canadian Standards Association is developing a system of voluntary standards for forestry operations. Both aim to reassure the public that industry lands are responsibly managed. Neither goes so far as to attach a label to products.

Sustainable forestry principles

Both the FSC and AF&PA have developed principles that define their vision of good forestry. Both agree on the importance of minimizing erosion, protecting water quality, and avoiding overharvesting, but the FSC principles go much further. They emphasize protection of biodiversity and natural ecosystem functioning, limit use of introduced species and chemicals, and prohibit conversion of natural forests into other forest types. They also include a number of principles that require certified companies to strive for social, as well as environmental, responsibility in their projects.

Costs and benefits

The direct cost of certification typically ranges from 10 cents to \$1 per acre. There are additional indirect costs, such as the effort involved setting up the required management plans and reduced production due to restrictions on management and harvesting practices. Although so far certification has not resulted in higher prices for certified products, it may result in increased market share and name recognition.

Problems with certification

A number of concerns have been raised about certification. Initial interest in certification grew out of concerns about tropical deforestation, but certification alone cannot stop global forest degradation. Only in Northern Europe and North America do "green" consumers play any significant role in wood products markets. Most wood cut in tropical countries is used domestically or sold to countries with no existing market for green products.

Many in the forest industry worry that if certification becomes popular, it will disadvantage those who manage their woodlands just as sustainably but are not certified for reasons of cost, scale of operations, or failure to meet specific criteria.

Others question the credibility of both labels and the certifying organizations. One study conducted by the World Wildlife Federation in Britain in 1991 found over 600 labels declaring their products to be "sustainably harvested," but only three of the labelers were able to provide supporting evidence. Internationally, controversy has arisen over two possibly dubious judgement calls by certifiers.

The question of federal lands certification

Currently, the most contentious issue facing certification in the U.S. revolves around certifying federal forest lands. Many environmental organizations are wary of or outright opposed to certification of federal forests, and some have threatened to pull support for FSC and forest certification in general if federal lands are certified. At the same time, a number of community-based initiatives have expressed interest in certifying the national forest lands their products come from. For the meantime, the FSC U.S. Initiative has declared a moratorium on certifying federal lands while they draft a consistent national policy. They are actively seeking public input on this issue. For more information on the FSC and forest certification, see *Resources*, page 7.

Alex Conley

Committee Briefs

Research

This task group is working on finalizing its series of community forestry case studies from across the country. Based on his review of the 18 cases, Jonathan Kusel reports that while these communities are seeking local determination through active group engagement in resource management decisions, they are not seeking local control. Local groups are calling for a "collaborative" science, in which local people work with scientists, learning from and with them and sharing local knowledge. The completed set of cases will be presented in a single volume with an introduction and discussion of common themes and issues. For more information, contact Jonathan Kusel at 530-284-1022, kusel@FCResearch.com.

Urban-rural linkages

American Forests is taking the lead on developing the urban-rural linkages program. The task group is currently fundraising for three to four scoping sessions across the country. They will use the scoping sessions to identify potential "sister communities" working on community-based ecosystem management projects within the same watershed. For more information, contact Gerry Gray at 202-955-4500, ggray@amfor.org.

National policy

The Communities Committee is partnering with American Forests, the National Network of Forest Practitioners, and the Pinchot Institute for Conservation to coordinate a joint appropriations agenda for 1999. The will agenda will focus on two or three line items in the USDA Forest Service's State & Private Forestry budget (see *Appropriations*, page 8). These same organizations will provide training on the appropriations process in December. The training session(s) will be held in Washington, DC. Michael Goergen of the Society of

American Foresters and Maia Enzer of American Forests have been keeping listserv subscribers apprised of national policy news, including the fate of relevant legislation and vagaries of the appropriations process.

For more information on national policy task force activities, contact Maia at 202-955-4500, menzer@amfor.org, or Michael at 301-897-8720 x116, goergenm@safnet.org.

Executive committee

This November the steering committee meeting will be held in Tucson, Arizona. The steering committee will be focusing on finalizing a strategic plan and putting it into action.

The executive committee continues to recruit steering committee members in an effort to make the steering committee more representative of community forestry nationwide. The executive committee also is accepting nominations for an urban community forester to fill the steering committee position vacated by Sandra Hill.

In May, Ann Moote was elected to fill the executive committee position vacated by Besty Rieke, who has left the Natural Resources Law Center to take the position of Area Manager in the Bureau of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region.

Communities Committee members can nominate themselves or others to serve on either the steering committee or executive committee by sending a note to Carol Daly at 406-756-8548 or cdaly@dgisys.net with the nominee's name, professional affiliation, and contact information, as a paragraph explaining why the nominee would make a good steering committee member.

Communications

The Communities Committee has a new

administrative assistant! Emily Jessee has been hired to handle information requests and internal steering committee communications, and maintain the Communities Committee database and Web page. You can reach Emily at The Watershed Research and Training Center in Hayfork, CA, 530-628-4206, ejessee@tcoe.trinity.k12.ca.us.

Mary Tess O'Sullivan, who formerly handled administrative tasks for the Communities Committee, has moved to Rhode Island where she is working in an environmental education center.

Jane Braxton Little continues to spread the word by writing articles on community forestry for national magazines. Her most recent work can be seen in *California Trees*, *Hope Magazine*, *American Forests*, and *Inner Voice*. For more information on communications, contact Ann Moote at 520-621-7189, moote@u.arizona.edu.

Fundraising

The Communities Committee has received funding from the Ford Foundation for the next two years. The funds will help support ongoing communication and information dissemination, learning sessions, regional meetings, and a practitioner/researcher conference for the year 2000. For more information, contact Lynn Jungwirth at 530-628-4206, lynnj@tcoe.trinity.k12.ca.us.

Communities and Forests is published by the University of Arizona's Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy for the Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forest Congress. Subscriptions are available free upon request.

Contributors:

Alex Conley
Maia Enzer
Mary Mitsos
Paul Ringgold
Ann Moote, Editor
Lynn Jungwirth, Committee Chair

Communities and Forests

Communities Committee of the
Seventh American Forest Congress
Box 356, Hayfork CA 96041
916-628-4206 (phone)
916-628-5100 (fax)
ejessee@tcoe.trinity.k12.ca.us

Member Profile

Tom Parker

For the past 23 years, I have lived in the Swan Valley in northwestern Montana where I've made my livelihood primarily as a guide for big game hunters, backpackers, and fishers. I've also done some trapping, worked as an associate researcher on wildlife research, and worked construction, carpentry, and some small-scale forest management projects. Most recently, I co-founded Northwest Connections, a small non-profit organization working to involve community members in long-term ecological monitoring projects.

Swan Valley is a mixed-ownership area, with Forest Service, private industrial, and small private ownership intermingled across it. In the 1980s, I and a number of my neighbors watched heavy, insensitive harvest on the private industrial land with a great deal of concern. A lot of people here saw the negative impacts of land hit too hard, too fast.

At an individual level, as someone who has spent my life in the outdoors, I had come to appreciate that everything out there—the vegetation, microbes in the soil, wildlife—absolutely every element is tied to the integrity of the whole. The forestry and land management decisions I and others observed were about timber and trees, which is just one aspect of what's going on out here. I was interested in a more ecological, holistic approach. There was a lot of finger-pointing going on at that time, but I wanted to prove to myself that there was a better way before I criticized other people's management practices.

I started doing low-impact forest management on my own property, and got involved in small-scale selective and salvage timber harvesting the early 1990s. I've got a couple of mentors, older woodsmen with decades of experience in forest management, and I've learned a lot from them. I often ask them out to the site to offer their guidance.

At the same time, a group of concerned neighbors began meeting informally to address common concerns, like new roads putting hiking trails or water supplies at risk. The common theme was the impacts we were all seeing in our own backyards, and in our neighbors backyards. In late 1990, this group officially became the Swan Valley Ad Hoc Committee.

The Ad Hoc Committee has worked on a variety of projects. For instance, there were significant acreages of industry land that we all felt should not be logged, and we worked very hard on land exchanges to preserve those pieces. We also got the University in Missoula to do a demographic study. A graduate student came out and interviewed everyone in the community on a whole range of issues: what do you like about this community? what don't you like? what are your social values? That sort of understanding about your community is important. We also worked on a local economic diversification plan.

The Ad Hoc Committee recently created a new community non-profit, the Swan Ecosystem Center, located at an old Forest Service work station that was going to be mothballed. The Ecosystem Center has a mandate to involve the community in land and resource management issues, to get people involved in the community's destiny. The community identified long-term

ecological monitoring as one goal and long-term educational efforts as another. We also were concerned that there wasn't more coordination and integration of management practices, so part of the Center's mandate is to assist the Forest Service, Plum Creek, and State Lands in accomplishing ecosystem management changes in their land management practices. And those changes are becoming evident.

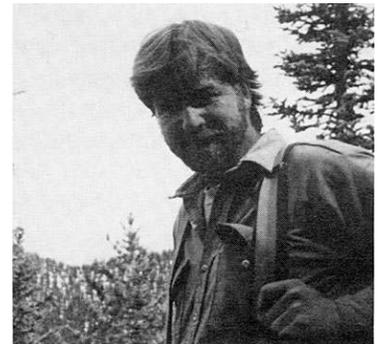
Our work at Northwest Connections addresses some of the monitoring and education concerns. It is designed to both assist federal, corporate, and small private landowners in better managing their lands and to give common citizens meaningful roles in identifying issues and developing important information about our local environment.

We do a variety of research and education projects. For example, we've set up a number of long-term (20 year) monitoring projects to look at areas within the Swan Valley that serve as functional linkages for grizzly bears, ensuring travel ways and genetic exchange between the Mission Mountain land mass and the Bob Marshall Wilderness. We're also doing high elevation vegetation monitoring and forest carnivore/furbearing animal monitoring. Through the University of Montana, we offer a for-credit field ecology course that we tie into our monitoring work.

We hire local people to help with the monitoring work. For example, we recently hired a logger from a family that's lived in this valley for several generations. He is a very experienced woodsman, he knows how and where to look for the species we monitor, and brings an understanding of the valley's historical habitat linkages to the monitoring work.

Unquestionably, the work we are doing in the Swan Valley is creating positive social and environmental change. There are untold positive impacts from this community's proactive influence on land and resource management. Industry and the agencies have become extremely sensitive to community issues.

Tom Parker is co-founder and co-director of Northwest Connections and a founding member of the Swan Valley Ad Hoc Committee in Montana



As America becomes increasingly urbanized, people get detached from the land and become less aware of the implications of their actions and lifestyles on the resource base. Entities like the Communities Committee that work to collectively express the desires and interests of rural America provide essential links between those trying to maintain a sense of place and a sense of community and the rest of America. We need to continue to communicate our common ideas and efforts, to encourage a transition in American society and government.

Community Conversations

Projects illustrate diversity of community forestry

Community forestry projects in this country address a number of social needs, from providing jobs for at-risk youth to retraining workers in declining industries to reducing crime and electric bills. The projects profiled below provide a sampling of the range of community forestry activities to be found in the United States.

Hawaii: farming trees instead of sugar

The Hawaii Forestry and Communities Initiative, Na Hoa Mahi'ai (Partners in Planting), addresses community needs in a variety of ways. State training programs have retrained displaced sugar workers to be foresters. The state also has a new extension forestry program and has created its first state forester position. The state forester will work with landowners, schools, communities, and other local interests. Communities are helping establish and support hands-on, cooperative demonstration forests throughout the state. Thanks in part to a rural development grant from the USDA Forest Service, sixteen community forestry projects were begun in 1997. Many of the projects are aimed at promoting tree plantations on former sugar cane fields. For more information, contact Mike Robinson, 888-934-4335.

Atlanta: teaching urban-rural linkages

The USDA Forest Service is sponsoring summer programs in Atlanta that provide conservation education to inner-city youth. The "Branching Out to the Youth of American Program" teaches youth of diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds the importance of the environment and caring for the land. The Atlanta Urban Conservation Education Project highlights the link between the quality of life in urban areas, national forests, and the contribution of forests to environmental, economic, and social stability in the South. Using the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest and the City of Atlanta as examples, the program uses urban forest environments to make youth aware of nature in the city and how it interrelates with nature in the national forest. For more information, contact Karen Braddy, USDA Forest Service, 770-536-0541.

Minneapolis: stewardship training

After a four heavy storms hit the Minneapolis area this Spring, Tree Trust put together ten workshops on caring for and replacing damaged trees. These workshops are part of Tree Trust's ongoing community outreach program that helps promote ecosystem-based management of urban green spaces while building community capacity throughout the city. This fall, they're offering six workshops on ecosystem-based management. Workshop

participants will work on a comprehensive natural resources or open space plan, a watershed management initiative, a natural area/riparian protection and/or restoration project, or a sustainable communities initiative. For more information, contact Mark Wever, Tree Trust, 612-920-9326.

Urban trees at work for social good

In Minneapolis, Tree Trust is planting trees to increase residential safety. The "Planting to Prevent Crime" program offers homeowners in targeted neighborhoods up to five trees to plant in front of high risk access points like basement windows. For more information, contact Mark Wever, Tree Trust, 612-920-9326.

In Tucson, Trees for Tucson and the local electric company collaborate to help homeowners plant shade trees to cut cooling costs during the scorching southern Arizona summer. A grant from Tucson Electric Power Company makes it possible for homeowners to receive two five-gallon trees for only \$3 each, as long as they agree to plant them on the south or west side of the house. For more information, contact Doug Koppinger, Trees for Tucson, 520-791-3109.

Urban forestry agenda

Americans can discuss and help shape the future for urban natural resources through a new project known as the Communities Futures Forum: Building an Urban Natural Resource Agenda for the 21st Century. The forum was initiated in late August at a workshop in Washington, DC, and continues on an interactive Web site. The project will enable interested participants to identify the opportunities and threats associated with our growing communities, consider future implications, and develop strategies to address them.

The two-year forum is organized around several themes, called "thought arenas." These include changing land use patterns, human relationships with natural resources, economic values of natural resources, concepts of community and place, collaboration, change, ecosystem linkages, and public policy.

The forum is sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, the National Association of State Foresters, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, and Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Services.

In addition to stimulating dialogue around urban natural resource issues, the sponsors hope to develop a shared urban land ethic, a vision for sustainable communities, and a model or framework for achieving the vision.

You can participate in the forum and learn more about future forum events via its interactive, facilitated Web site, found at willow.ncfes.umn.edu/forum.

Mary Mitsos

Community forestry, continued from page 1.

Community forestry has been a major focus of the international forestry community since the 1980s. Various definitions, but always emphasizing local communities' role in the management of the forests they depend upon, community forestry is one of the international development buzzwords of the 1990s. Tens of thousands of on-the-ground community forestry projects have been initiated, new national forestry policies have been written, and countless dollars spent promoting community forestry.

So what can community foresters in the U.S. learn from all this experience? A few general lessons follow.

Don't take a simplistic view of community.

In the early days of promoting woodlots, villages were treated as clearly defined units whose members would work together for the good of the community. The general failure of this approach has led to a better understanding of the complex ways that communities are cross-cut by lines of relative wealth, ethnicity, kinship, occupation, gender—even personality.

Early projects in Nepal gave control over communal forest areas to the local government councils, the official representatives of local community interests. This often led to the local political elite co-opting communal goods for its own use. Better success has been had turning forests over to Forest User Groups made up of the people who actually harvest forest products in each individual forest area.

International experience has also run into problems when communities are defined by geographic residence. In the West African Sahel, migrant herders and farmers have long shared the same landscapes. Community based natural resource management projects in Mali have had to include herders whose official residence may be hundreds of miles away.

One of the biggest challenges community forestry faces is ensuring an equitable distribution of costs and benefits among participants. To do so requires first striving to identify all

stakeholders, acknowledging the diversity of opinions—even within a defined user group—and recognizing that any one person or household may belong to several different social groups.

Use appropriate tools to broker cooperation.

International community foresters have developed a wide array of participatory tools to facilitate group learning. These include participatory mapping, informal systems of ranking alternatives, an emphasis on local knowledge, and a general sensitivity to groups dynamics and unstated agendas. One technique commonly used in West Africa involves having village groups discuss environmental changes in their area, with a facilitator drawing pictures of the past, present, and possible futures that the group describes. Techniques like these help groups both see linkages between various problems and come up with tangible goals they want to work together to achieve.

Experience has shown that worldwide, many people are reluctant to express their views in formal public proceedings, making informal focus groups essential for building rapport and easing in to negotiations.

Question preconceptions.

Most people have heard of the "Himalayan Crisis," whereby population growth in the hills of Nepal was forcing farmers to clear more land to feed their families, in turn leading to rampant deforestation causing massive soil erosion and catastrophic flooding in Bangladesh. This assessment by international development specialists led to a number of policy recommendations designed to address deforestation. Yet in recent years it has come to light that 1) forest cover in the hills of Nepal is quite stable, and has even expanded in some areas; 2) past forest clearing had more to do with 19th Century tax codes than with population growth; and 3) flooding and high sediment loads in the rivers are due to dramatic geologic uplift of the Himalayan range, not farming-induced erosion. While no one denies there are real environmental problems in the hills of Nepal, it appears many policy makers were seduced by an attractive theory that blinded them to on-the-ground realities.

Tailor the project to local conditions.

Community forestry has become a fad, and there are many cookie-cutter projects that attempt to replicate successful projects elsewhere without bothering with essential rapport building, careful negotiation, and follow through. Extrapolations are often based on the initial success of pilot projects that were heavily subsidized with both dollars and outside management capacity.

Unfortunately, there is no stock formula for community forestry. Each community forestry effort needs to carefully assess the resources and constraints it faces, build on its own successes, and constantly reevaluate its progress.

International experience with community forestry has much to teach efforts here in the United States. For places to look for more information, see *Resources*, page 7.

Who's local here? Some food for thought...

What does community mean in community forestry? We often hear of a tension between communities of place—such as a town or county—and communities of interest—interpreted to mean organized, usually national, interest groups. But how do the following fit in?

- The man who's made his life in the city, but comes back each fall to hunt the woods he grew up in.
- The logger who drives 70 miles each morning for work she can no longer find nearer home.
- The mushroom buyer who settles in town when the picking is good.
- The student whose summer work on a prescribed-burn crew pays her college tuition each fall.
- The migrant worker whose extended family depends on the tree-planting money he wires home to Mexico.
- The university biologist whose long-term research is on study sites she set up 20 years ago.

Resources

Forest products certification

Forest Stewardship Council. The Forest Stewardship Council's U.S. Initiative maintains an excellent Web site at www.fsuc.org. They can also be reached at Forest Stewardship Council U.S., PO Box 10, Waterbury, VT 05676, 802-244-6257, info@fscus.org.

AF&PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative. For the industry perspective, contact the American Forest & Paper Association at 111 19th St., NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036, 202-463-2700, INFO@afandpa.org, www.afandpa.org.

European Forest Institute. The Institute's Web site is a great resource for those who want to know more about certification efforts around the globe: www.efi.fi/cis/.

Canadian Standard Organization. Check out the Canadian approach at www.sfms.com.

International community forestry

Food and Agriculture Organization. Perhaps the best publication about international forestry is *UNASYLVA*, published quarterly by the FAO. Check out the 1995 issue subtitled, "Common Property Resources Management" (volume 46, number 1). The FAO's newsletter, *Forests, Trees, and People* is another great resource. Information on these and other FAO resources can be found on the FAO's website at www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/forestry/FTPP/default.htm.

International Model Forest Network. Canada has established a network of model forests in each of its ecological regions. These forests demonstrate innovative approaches to sustainable forestry, and are run by collaborative groups. Canada has also taken the lead in establishing the international model forest network. Both have a lot of information to offer community forestry practitioners. Check them out on the Web at ncr157.ncr.forestry.ca/mf.html

Upcoming events

National Network of Forest Practitioners annual meeting, November 4-8, 1998, Mt. Hood, Oregon. Mark your calendar! The NNFP will be holding its 8th annual meeting at Timberline Lodge in Oregon's Mt. Hood National Forest. The Network's annual meeting helps people working for sustainable forests and sustainable communities learn from each other through discussions, workshops, and field trips. This year's topics include: alternative forest products; watershed restoration; workforce diversification; social, economic, and ecological monitoring; forest certification; private landowner stewardship; and ecosystem workforce training. For more information, contact Thomas Brendler at tbrendler@igc.apc.org.

International workshop on ecosystem-based community forestry, October 19-24, 1998, Victoria, BC.

Participants in this workshop will explore the meaning of "ecosystem-based" community forestry and examine policy changes needed to facilitate it, develop an international declaration on ecosystem-based community forestry, and launch an active network and movement for the Pacific Rim. The workshop organizers will produce a listserv and a directory/resource list with key contacts, projects, institutes, and a bibliography. You don't have to be a conference participant to be listed in the directory/resource list or added to the listserv. For more information, send e-mail to gbaron@uvic.ca

Urban and community forestry national grassroots summit, October 25-28, 1998, Wintergreen, Virginia.

The Virginia Urban Forest Council is hosting this joint summit between the Alliance for Community Trees and the Network of State Forest Councils. The theme is "growing our urban and community forest movement" and the goal is to strengthen grassroots urban and community forestry leadership. For more information, call 718-834-4589.

New publications

Tragedy of the Commons? Public Lands Decision

Making on the Colorado Plateau. This report on the conclusions of the February 1998 Farmington, New Mexico town hall is available from the Colorado Plateau Forum, c/o Northern Arizona University, PO Box 15009, Flagstaff, AZ 86011.

National Network of Forest Practitioners Membership Directory.

Can't make the annual meeting, but still want the contacts? Get addresses, phone numbers, and information about members' activities from the new NNFP membership directory. Contact Thomas Brendler at tbrendler@igc.apc.org for details.

Sustainable Communities: Task Force Report.

The President's Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD) gives examples and makes recommendations on developing vision and goal statements, partnerships, economic development, and safe and healthy communities. Extensive appendices provide case studies, community profiles, and resources and programs on sustainable community indicators. Available from PCSD, 730 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20503, 202-408-5296, infopcsd@aol.com, www.whitehouse.gov/PCSD.

New grant program

Resources for Community Collaboration. RCC provides small (\$2,500-\$7,500) grants to help non-profit community organizations obtain training for and participate in "viable community based collaborations committed to resolving key natural resource issues in the rural West." Only 501(c)(3) organizations located in the western U.S. or British Columbia are eligible. Fall applications must be postmarked by October 19, 1998, Spring applications by February 22, 1999. For grant guidelines and other information, contact Kimery Wiltshire, 415-332-1230, RCCProject@aol.com.

Workshop, continued from page 1

The six themes were stewardship, monitoring, participation and decision-making processes, institutions and governance, investment, and global linkages.

There was some overlap among the work group topics. While the process group focused on issues of diversity, inclusiveness, and equity, for instance, the institutions and governance group focused on laws and policies that impede or facilitate community-based ecosystem processes. The monitoring work group explored monitoring as a way to build capacity and trust, while the stewardship group looked at stewardship as a means of developing common ground. The investment group explored public and private financing for community-based ecosystem management. The global linkages work group looked at how global economic conditions are linked to community-based ecosystem management efforts in the U.S.

According to Jonathan Kusel, science editor for the project, "What was truly unique about this process was the bringing together of academics, practitioners, agency representatives, and national environmental and industry groups who worked together to refine and define many of these topics. Having people work together who do not do this on a regular basis was, and continues to be, the supreme challenge of this project."

American Forests expects to release the final documents before the end of the year. All members of the Communities Committee will be notified when the final publication is available.

Maia Enzer

Appropriations alert

It's getting down to the wire, but you can still influence 1999 funding! Most appropriations for forestry issues come through the Interior appropriations bill. The House version of this bill, HR 4193, passed by a vote of 245-181 on July 23 and has now been placed on the Senate calendar. The Senate bill (S2237) is currently being deliberated. There are a number of monetary differences between the two bills. As it currently stands, the bills would provide the following funding (in millions) to the USDA Forest Service:

	<u>House</u>	<u>Senate</u>
State & Private Forestry (total)	\$156.1	\$165.0
Forest Stewardship	28.7	23.8
Stewardship Incentives Program	0	6.6
Forest Legacy	2.0	5.1
Urban & Community Forestry	30.0	26.2
Economic Action Programs	10.0	20.0
PNW Assistance	7.5	9.2
Forest and Rangeland Research	197.4	212.9
National Forest System	1,231.4	1,129.0
Wildland Fire Management	631.7	689.8
Reconstruction and Construction (Roads)	271.4	353.8

It's not too late to phone your Representative or Senator to urge them to support those programs that matter most to you!

Paul Ringgold

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Communities Committee is to focus attention on the interdependence between America's forests and the vitality of rural and urban communities and to promote: improvements in political and economic structures to ensure local community well-being and the long-term sustainability of forested ecosystems; an increasing stewardship role of local communities in the maintenance and restoration of ecosystem integrity and biodiversity; participation by ethnically and socially diverse members of urban and rural communities in decision making and sharing benefits of forests; the innovation and use of collaborative processes, tools, and technologies; and recognition of rights and responsibilities of diverse forest landowners.

Communities and Forests

Communities Committee of the
Seventh American Forest Congress

PO Box 356
Hayfork, CA 96041